

HB Arnett's ***COUGAR SPORTSLINE***

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SCOUTS ARE SOMETIMES RIGHT

Here is what some AAU coaches and scouting services said about Jimmer Fredette in 2007 after his announcement that he would be signing with BYU

Jim Hart, the program director of Albany City Rocks, Fredette's AAU team, said, "Jimmer can shoot the ball really well. He's going to be an impact player for them (BYU) eventually." Hart continued by saying, "I see Jimmer playing the point guard position. He's shown with us that he can do that."

Mike Sullivan, the publisher of ScoutNewYorkPreps.com, saw plenty of Fredette in high school. Here was his assessment of him in college.

"Fredette can make himself a consistent threat by taking his dribble to the rim. He should be able to produce plenty of points on the college level. He is a hard worker and someone that can dent a zone with his perimeter shooting."

Based on Fredette's latest outing against Arizona, it would appear that the prep scouting reports on him were spot on.

Lighting up Arizona with 49 points would be a pretty good example of producing plenty of points on the college level.

The final score of BYU 99 Arizona 69 would seem to indicate that Arizona isn't the Wildcats of old and the new BYU is a very good basketball team.

Fredette's performance was phenomenal, but it will become even better with time.

That is because so few BYU fans actually saw it.

The game was basically blacked out across the country. Unless you had Fox Sports Pacific or Fox Sports Arizona (tape delayed) or Comcast, Dish or Direct TV sports tier packages, you were literally in the dark.

As of yet, there have been no announcements from BYU for plans on trying to rebroadcast the game.

The rights are still owned by Fox Sports and they will have to give those rights to BYU to make that happen.

If the game ever becomes available for replay, it will likely become the most-watched BYU basketball video ever. It could even someday surpass the famous Danny Ainge coast-to-coast game-winning dash to defeat Notre Dame.

Speaking of Ainge, his best scoring outing was 40 points against Oral Roberts in Provo on Dec 23, 1978.

It was a good enough outing for then ORU coach Lake Kelly to proclaim that Ainge was “the best white player he had ever seen.”

Sean Miller, Arizona’s first-year coach, didn’t say the same about Fredette, but he did compare him to Mark Price, the former Georgia Tech point guard who had a decade-long career in the NBA. in

THE FUTURES MARKET

Listed below are how BYU’s most recent signees and future prospects fared during the last week.

Kyle Collinsworth, 6-6 guard/wing, Provo HS...Collinsworth had 24 points last Wednesday in a 45-42 win over Salem Hills. He had an even bigger win last week when he was selected to the prestigious Best in the West list of prep prospects published annually by the Long Beach Press Telegram.

This the 31st annual list produced by the paper. It is selected by college coaches and from scouts who operate recruiting services or report for web sites that cover recruiting. Selections are from high school seniors from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

The first team selection list, of which Collinsworth was chosen, consists of 15 players.

In the bio published by Best of the West, here is what they said about Collinsworth:

“His skills are such that it is hard to project the position he is best suited for in college. His mump shot is much improved and has to be honored to the 3-point arc. And he passes and handles well enough to spend a lot of time at the point for his prep and traveling teams. But he is also a dependable rebounder and determined defender (in the post and on the perimeter), with an advanced low-post offensive game. Considering the caliber of programs that pursued him, Collinsworth will be the most significant recruit landed in a while by the Cougars. He is rated as one of the best passers in the nation. he is a true pass first guard with excellent floor vision. His one game high for the season was 16 assists. Collsworth is also an excellent penetrator and proved during the summer that he can get to the basket and finish against the best players in the country. he has excellent leaping ability and was recently measured at jumping three inches above the square on the backboard.”

Other BYU players that have made this coveted first-team list include Danny Ainge, Steve Trumbo, Mike Smith, Ken Roberts and Shawn Bradley.

While we are dropping names, the list also includes such recent players who were first round NBA draft picks. They include Spencer Hawes, Brook and Robin Lopez, Jerryd Bayless, Austin Daye, James Harden, James Johnson, Kevin Love, DeMar DeRozan and Jrue Holiday.

Nick Emery, 6-0 freshman guard, Lone Peak HS...He apparently didn’t play based on the box score of Lone Peak’s 76-42 win over Westlake HS last Wednesday. Don’t know the reason why. Maybe an injury?

Anson Winder, 6-3, guard, Bishop Gorman HS...His team played in the nationally prominent Beach Ball invitational tournament in Myrtle Beach, SC earlier this week. He scored 32 in a win against Bishop O’Connell HS of Maryland, had 11 points in a win against Nichols HS of New York and then scored 12 in a win against Scott County HS of Kentucky. His team made it to the tourney final on Thursday.

Jabari Parker, 6-5, wing, Simeon HS, Chicago...Parker is coming off the bench as a freshman and not really scoring much. His team went 1-1 last week. Parker is the highly touted freshman that already has numerous Division I scholarship offers, including one from BYU. He is LDS.

DeMarcus Harrison, 6-4, guard, Christ School, Arden, North Carolina...His team is currently on Christmas break. The next game is scheduled for January 5.

Jordan Chatman, 6-3, guard, Skyview HS, Ridgfield, WA...BYU sent a coach to Portland to watch Chatman on Wednesday as his team faced North Eugene HS in a game played at the Rose Garden. He led his team with 12 points, but they came up short in the game 40-45.

FLUFF AND STUFF

SEAN MILLER KNEW WHAT WAS COMING...BYU tried and thought they had three different teams lined up to play the Cougars in basketball this December before they were able to sign Arizona.

Dave Rose and his staff thought they had done deals with Alabama, Georgia and Virginia Tech, before all three finally said no to a two game series.

Arizona came on board late and signed a two-year deal. The return game is set for Energy Solutions Arena in Salt Lake for next season. The Wildcats didn't want to play in Provo.

They didn't want to play in Tucson last week either.

The story we get is that Sean Miller, the new UA coach saw the schedule for this year and called BYU and said he would like out of the contract.

BYU told him that there was a \$100,000 non-cancel clause in the contract and as soon as Arizona sent the check, the Cougars would be glad to cancel the games. Even storied programs during a recession apparently don't have as deep of pockets as before and the game went on as scheduled.

A DOMAN DEJA VU?...It will be a nice spring battle to see who will be the starting BYU quarterback for this coming fall.

Many are discounting Riley Nelson because they think he isn't a great thrower.

In our opinion, he has as good an arm as Brandon Doman had when he led the Cougars to a 12-0 record out of the 2000 gate. Nelson also runs as well if not better than Doman.

With a little tweak of the offense to implement the running game of Nelson, BYU could still have a top notch offense next year.

BYU will return a very good and experienced offensive line to complement the running game of a quarterback.

The only the thing the 2010 offense would lack that Doman had is a premier running back. Luke Staley was a game breaker. BYU won't have one next season.

Unless Jake Heaps is super natural, we see Nelson as the logical starter for next season.

EVEN WITH SACCHARIN, SAGARIN NOT SWEET ENOUGH FOR SOME...Here is an email we received a few days ago after the BYU win over Arizona. This is from a subscriber who is very astute, well read and researched when it comes to almost all college sports. He is especially conversant and cogent when it comes to Cougar athletics. He wrote:

As I write this, Sagarin ranks BYU #13 in the nation. New Mexico is #16. Utah is #210, and Rick Majerus's team, St. Louis is #121.

I have noted in the past that no MWC basketball team has ever finished the season ranked in Sagarin's Top 20 - an astonishing statistic and a real indictment of the conference when it comes to men's basketball. (MWC football teams have many top 20 finishes.)

It's also true that BYU, under Dave Rose, tends to start the season blazing hot and finish the season weak. Will that trend continue? BYU has yet to play an outstanding team this year. (The Cougars have played the 248th toughest schedule in America. Their best opponent, Arizona State, is ranked 44th.

Their one loss is to Utah State, ranked 89th.)

I am impressed with the Cougars so far, though (once again) their post play is weak. But I have learned not to get too excited at this point in the season.

Name withheld

U.S. ARMY ALL AMERICAN BOWL...The game, which features premier high school football prospects from around the nation, will be played next Saturday, Jan 9 and will be televised live on NBC. Kickoff is set for 11:00 Mountain time.

Two BYU signees and a potential signee for the Cougar will all be playing on the West team.

Jake Heaps and Ross Apo have both already signed with the Cougars and will be enrolled in school this coming week.

Ricky Heimuli is a big defensive tackle from Brighton HS in Salt Lake. BYU is reportedly back in the recruiting picture for him and would love to sign him in February.

Here are the bios of these players as written up by the U.S. Army All American bowl web site as they explain why they were invited and the special strengths they bring to the all-star game.

Jake Heaps...Quarterback, Skyline HS, Sammamish, WA...heaps has the ability to set up and get rid of the ball quickly. He can also throw on the run and release from various launch points. he shows leadership skills with his command of the offense and has great confidence in his throws. As a sophomore, he led his team to a 14-0 season and a 3A state championship, throwing for 2,095 yards. As a junior, he threw for 38 touchdowns and another state title. "This guy has ice water in his veins, the ferocious pass rush does not phase him, he goes through his progressions easily, reads defenses well, and can hit his receivers on the numbers just about every time.

Ross Apo...Wide Receiver, the Oakridge School, Arlington, TX...Apo displays good stance and start, exploding off the ball and getting into his route quickly. With his size, he is a massive target across the middle and down the seam. He has deceptive speed, and covers a lot of ground quickly with his long stride. He is a great red zone target because of his height and leaping ability. As a junior, he hauled in 37 passes for 764 yards and scored 11 touchdowns. "He competes for the ball in flight and is at his best in tough situations, He can hurt you in underneath zones, and he's the consummate wide receiver who does whatever it takes to improve his game."

Ricky Heimuli...Defensive Line, Brighton HS, Salt Lake City, UT...Heimuli has the size and strength to bull rush his way back to the quarterback, as well as impressive speed to help chase down the ball carrier. He gets a good jump on the snap and uses quick hands to help him maintain separation. In his sophomore year, he recorded 57 tackles (seven for losses), 4 1/2 sacks and one interception. As a junior, he totaled 40 tackles (ten for losses) and five sacks. "Heimuli is one of the best defensive players to come out of Utah in quite some time. He's impossible to block with his bull rush and strength that is unmatched by anybody in the nation. He's also a very intelligent defender and knows what it takes to make the big play at key times."

TELEVISION TIMETABLE

BYU vs. Eastern New Mexico

Saturday, Jan 2 at Provo

Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: none

BYU vs. UNLV

Wednesday, Jan 6 at Provo

Tipoff: 8:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: The Mtn

BYU vs. UTEP

Saturday, Jan 9 at El Paso

Tipoff: 7:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: CBS C

BYU vs. Air Force

Wednesday, Jan 13 at Colo Springs

Tipoff: 6:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: The Mtn

BYU vs. Colorado State

Saturday, Jan 16 at Provo

Tipoff: 4:00 pm Mountain Time

TV: The Mtn